

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph on page 13 with the following amended paragraph:

The treating solution capable of dissolving the inorganic compound particles is not particularly restricted, but preferably comprises a compound containing at least one of fluorine and silicon atoms. Specifically, an aqueous solution containing at least one of a fluorine compound and a ~~silic~~-silicic acid compound is preferably used. By using the treating solution containing a fluorine and/or silicon compound, a support for lithographic printing plate precursor, which provides a lithographic printing plate excellent in the staining resistance, can be obtained.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Specific examples thereof include sodium fluoride, potassium fluoride, calcium fluoride, magnesium fluoride, sodium hexafluorozirconate, potassium hexafluorozirconate, sodium hexafluorotitanate, potassium hexafluorotitanate, hexafluorozirconium hydroacid, hexafluorotitanium hydroacid, ammonium hexafluorozirconate, ammonium hexafluorotitanate, ~~hexafluorosilic~~hexafluorosilicic acid, nickel fluoride, iron fluoride, fluorophosphoric acid and ammonium fluorophosphate.

Please replace the first paragraph on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

As the silicic acid compound for use in the invention, ~~silic~~silicic acid and a silicate are exemplified, and an alkali metal silicate is preferably used.

Please replace the fourth paragraph on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

The ~~silic~~silicic acid includes, for example, ~~orthosilic~~orthosilicic acid, ~~metasilic~~metasilicic acid, ~~metadisilic~~metadisilicic acid, ~~metatrisilic~~metatrisilicic acid and ~~metatetrasilic~~metatetrasilicic acid.

Please replace the first paragraph on page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

The concentration of ~~silic~~silicic acid compound in the sealing treatment solution is preferably not less than 0.01% by weight, more preferably not less than 0.1% by weight, and particularly preferably not less than 1% by weight from the viewpoint of the staining resistance, and preferably not more than 10% by weight, more preferably not more than 7% by weight, and particularly preferably not more than 5% by weight from the viewpoint of the press life.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

When the sealing treatment solution contains both the fluorine compound and the ~~silic~~
silicic acid compound, a ratio of the compounds in the sealing treatment solution is not particularly restricted, but a weight ratio of fluorine compound to ~~silic~~silicic acid compound is preferably from 5/95 to 95/5, and more preferably from 20/80 to 80/20.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

In addition, the aqueous solution containing at least one of the fluorine compound and ~~silic~~silicic acid compound may contain an appropriate amount of a hydroxide, for example, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide or lithium hydroxide in order to increase a pH value thereof.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 15-16 with the following amended paragraph:

The aqueous solution containing the fluorine compound and/or ~~silic~~silicic acid compound may contain an alkaline earth metal salt or a salt of Group IV (Group IVB) metal. Examples of the alkaline earth metal salt include a water-soluble salt thereof, for example, a nitrate, e.g., calcium nitrate, strontium nitrate, magnesium nitrate or barium nitrate, a sulfate, a hydrochloride, a phosphate, an acetate, an oxalate and a borate. Examples of the salt of Group IV (Group IVB) metal include titanium tetrachloride, titanium trichloride, potassium titanium

fluoride, potassium titanium oxalate, titanium sulfate, titanium tetraiodide, zirconium chloroxide, zirconium dioxide, zirconium oxychloride and zirconium tetrachloride. The alkaline earth metal salts and salts of Group IV (Group IVB) metals can be used individually or as a mixture of two or more thereof.

Please replace paragraph bridging pages 16-17 with the following amended paragraph:

A method of treatment with the aqueous solution containing at least one of the fluorine compound and ~~silic~~silicic acid compound is not particularly restricted and includes, for example, a dip method and a spray method. Such methods may be used individually once or plural times, or in combination of two or more thereof.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 34 with the following amended paragraph:

Examples of the alkali metal silicate for use in the hydrophilic surface treatment include the alkali metal silicates used in the sealing treatment solution containing at least one of a fluorine compound and a ~~silic~~silicic acid compound as described above.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 34-35 with the following amended paragraph:

The aqueous solution of alkali metal silicate may also contain an alkaline earth metal salt or a salt of Group IV (Group IVB) metal. Examples of the alkaline earth metal salt and salt of

Group IV (Group IVB) metal include the alkaline earth metal salts and salts of Group IV (Group IVB) metals, which may be included in the sealing treatment solution containing at least one of a fluorine compound and a ~~silicic~~silicic acid compound as described above. The alkaline earth metal salts and salts of Group IV (Group IVB) metals can be used individually or as a mixture of two or more thereof.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 36-37 with the following amended paragraph:

Specific examples thereof include those described for the fluorine compound used in the sealing treatment solution containing at least one of a fluorine compound and a ~~silicic~~silicic acid compound as described above.